

SECRET
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Forced Labor Camp and Underground
Factories Near Tashino

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1. I first heard of the forced labor camp in the forest near Tashino in 1946 from residents () who had been in Tashino, but I do not know when they had visited there. They spoke of it as though it existed before World War II but did not mention a specific or approximate date. I do not know whether it existed during the war. They spoke positively of its postwar existence. This was corroborated by a soldier (). He stated that 50X1 he had been stationed in the city of Tashino. I do not know how large his unit was, how long he was stationed there or anything else about his service there. He mentioned that there was a heavily guarded area nearby which was a forced labor camp and which had underground factories. He stated that underground factories were engaged in atomic energy work, but I do not know whether he was making a wild guess or was basing his statement on facts. I do not know when he was stationed there, but, since he was of the class of 1926, it was probably in 1945 or 1946.
2. I first heard of underground factories near Tashino in 1945. The area where these underground factories are located was a monastery before the Russian Revolution.
3. I do not know when construction of these factories was started except that it was commonly believed that it was before World War II. I cannot even approximate the date construction was started. I do not know whether there was any activity in this area during the war. I did hear from residents of my village that there was a great increase in activity after the war.
4. I know of no restrictions on travel to the city of Tashino. The heavily guarded area cannot be approached but I do not know what kind of guards there are or to what depth the surrounding area is guarded.
5. It is my impression that Shatki is still used as a train stop. I cannot state this positively, but I see no reason why it should have been abandoned as such. Since I passed through Shatki in the summer of 1949 and was not particularly interested in the city, I can recall very little about it. The station was not

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-2-

unusually small or large. I would guess that there were approximately 15 tracks at the station. I cannot recall any depots or warehouses. I think there were about four or five fair-sized roads leading into the city. I noticed no large plants or factories; I think there were some small plants but do not know what they produced. There seemed to be a sufficient supply of electricity which, I believe, is produced locally near the Tesha River. There is a water supply system but I do not know whether there was a sewage system. Although Shatki is the center of the rayon, it seemed like any other city of its size.

6. I know of no industrial installations in the area roughly defined by Sarova, Tashino and Shatki, except for a cast-iron factory in Tashino which I heard of from people in my village.

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